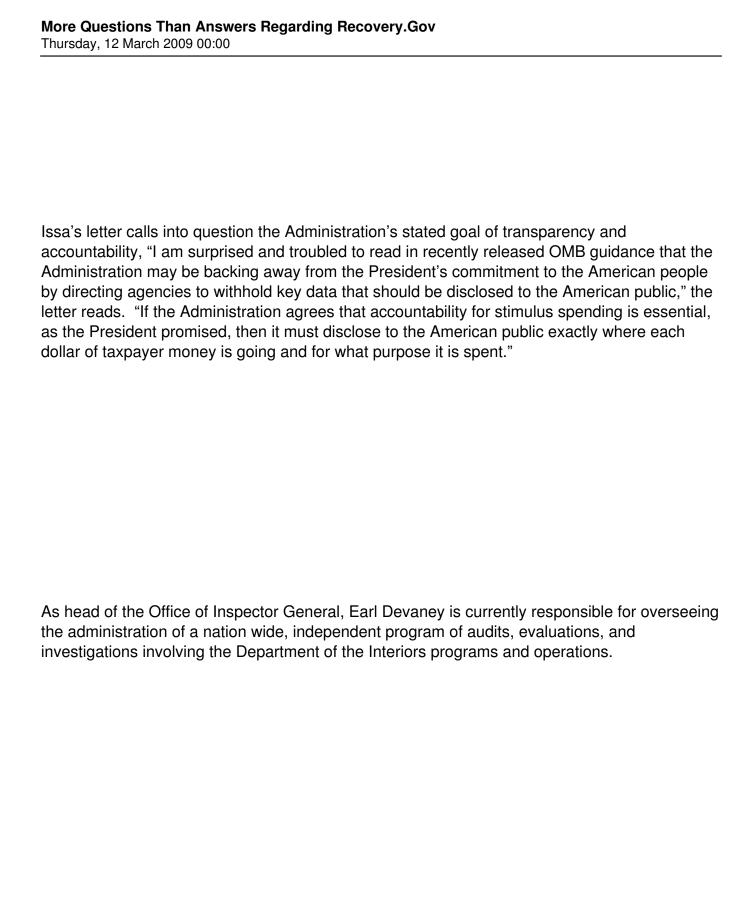
"I have told each of my Cabinet, as well as mayors and governors across the country, that they will be held accountable by me and the American people for every dollar they spend." – President Barack Obama, 2/24/2009, Address to Joint Session of Congress
WASHINGTON. D.C. – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Darrell Issa (R-CA) sent a letter today to Earl Devaney, Chair of the Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board, calling into question Administration guidelines released by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that contradict the President's promise of an "unprecedented oversight effort" of the nearly \$800 billion included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law last month.
"Full transparency requires attention to not just <i>what</i> is posted online, but also <i>how</i> the information is posted. Information about how the taxpayers' money is distributed must be disclosed in a structured, open, and searchable format," Issa wrote to Devaney. "Spending this massive sum of money in relatively short order presents the dangerous probability of waste, fraud, and abuse."



The letter asks the Administration to clarify how Recovery.gov will work:

1. What data will be disclosed on Recovery.gov? Will each agency publish the reports mandated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on its own web site or will everything be centrally housed at Recovery.gov? If the information and reports are not centrally

housed, will there be a central aggregator or some other way to automate accessing the various agency reports?

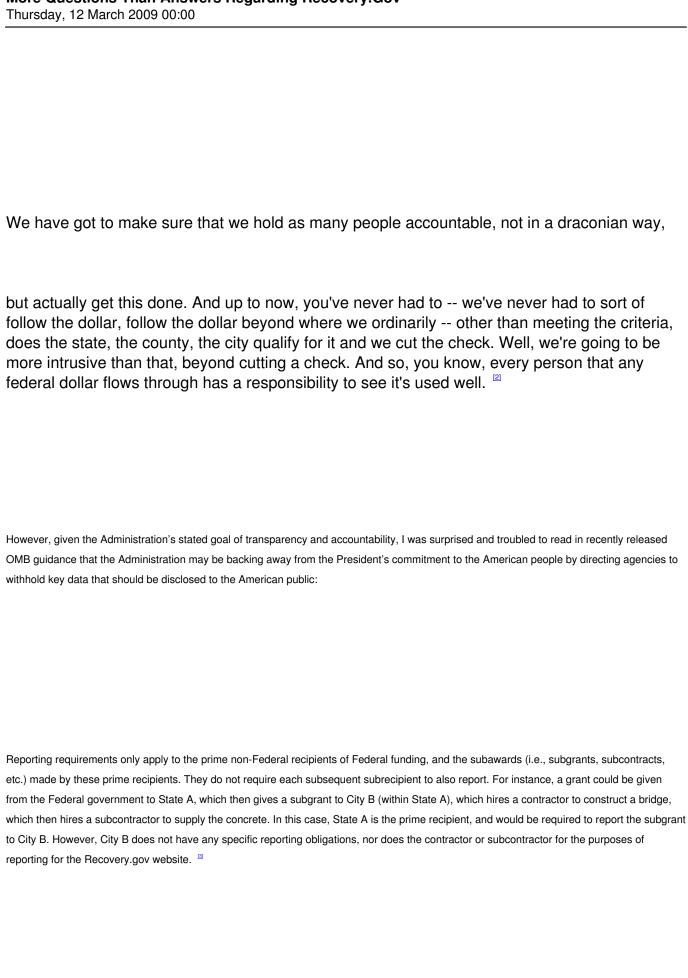
- 2. Will reports from recipients (states, cities, private entities, etc.) be in a standard format? If so, what is that standard format? What are the fields the Administration will require from recipients and make available to the public? Will the Administration direct agencies to publish the recipient reports in their entirety?
- 3. How deeply will the data be reported? Will there be disclosure of every transaction between every recipient, contractor, and subcontractor in the supply chain up to when the project is completed? Will the Administration require all states and/or cities to report where each dollar of taxpayer money went and what was accomplished with each project?
- 4. What procedures do you have in place or do you plan to put in place to enforce the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's requirement that contracts funded under the Act are to be awarded as fixed-price contracts through the use of competitive procedures? If you do not mandate disclosure of every transaction down to the contractor and subcontractor level, how will you be able to enforce this requirement?

The text of the full letter is provided below:
The Honorable Earl Devaney
Chairman
Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board
1849 C Street NW

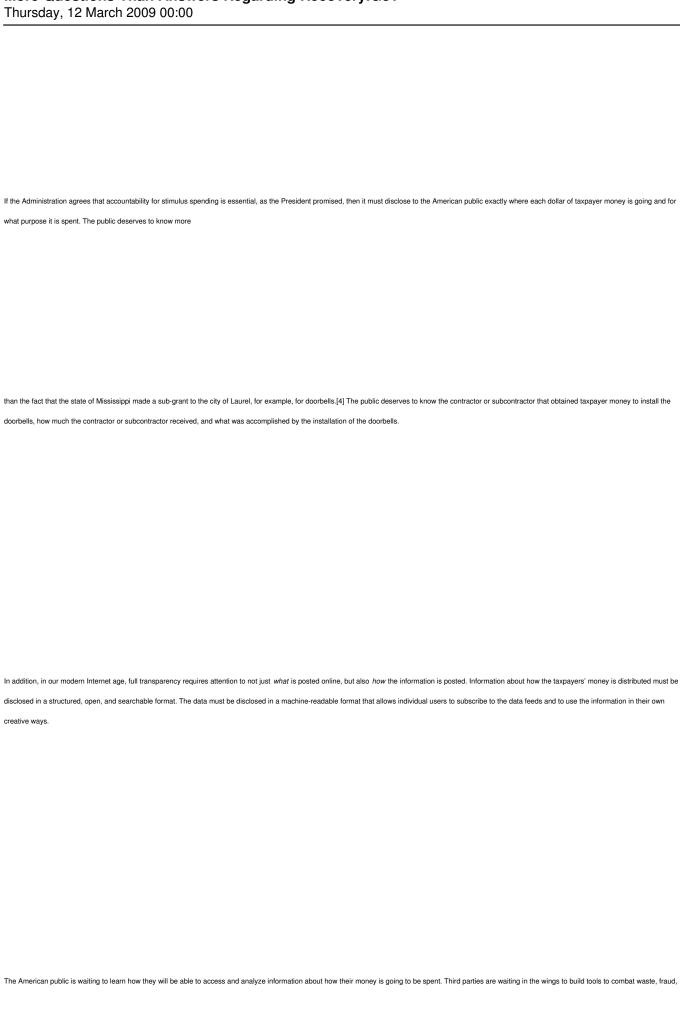
Washington, DC 20204

Mail Stop 4428

Dear Chairman Devaney,
On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law. This law allocates nearly \$800 billion to fund government run programs that promise to put Americans to work and stimulate the economy. Spending this massive sum of money in relatively short order presents the dangerous probability of waste, fraud, and abuse. In order to combat the wasting of taxpayer funds, it is absolutely essential that every single dollar of stimulus funding be fully transparent. Only then can the American people hold our government accountable for the results of this unprecedented intervention in the US economy.
I am pleased that the Administration agrees that transparency and accountability is vital.
President Obama "told each of [his] cabinet, as well as mayors and governors across the country, that they will be held accountable by me and the American people for every dollar they spend."[1] As Vice President Biden proclaimed:



## More Questions Than Answers Regarding Recovery.Gov



## More Questions Than Answers Regarding Recovery.Gov

Thursday, 12 March 2009 00:00

ww.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda\_fy2009/m09-10.pdf

and abuse, and the public deserves a detailed plan of the data the Administration plans to release and how the data will be released. As such, by close of business on Monday, March 26, 2009, please provide a plan that answers the following questions: 1. What data will be disclosed on Recovery.gov? Will each agency publish the reports mandated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on its own web site or will everything be centrally housed at Recovery.gov? If the information and reports are not centrally housed, will there be a central aggregator or some other way to automate accessing the various agency reports? 2. Will reports from recipients (states, cities, private entities, etc.) be in a standard format? If so, what is that standard format? What are the fields the Administration will require from recipients and make available to the public? Will the Administration direct agencies to publish the recipient reports in their entirety? 3. How deeply will the data be reported? Will there be disclosure of every transaction between every recipient, contractor, and subcontractor in the supply chain up to when the project is completed? Will the Administration require all states and/or cities to report where each dollar of taxpayer money went and what was accomplished with each project? 4. What procedures do you have in place or do you plan to put in place to enforce the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's requirement that contracts funded under the Act are to be awarded as fixed-price contracts through the use of competitive procedures? If you do not mandate disclosure of every transaction down to the contractor and subcontractor level, how will you be able to enforce this requirement? Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this critical issue. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Senior Counsel Christopher Hixon at 202-225-5074. Remarks by President Barack Obama, Address to Joint Session to Congress, February 24, 2009. 🖾 Remarks by Vice President Joseph Biden at the Opening of the First Recovery Plan Implementation Meeting, Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

Memorandum to the Heads of Departments and Agencies from Peter R. Orszag, Director, OMB, on Initial Implementing Guidance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, available at <a href="http://www.html.nitial.nit

## **More Questions Than Answers Regarding Recovery.Gov** Thursday, 12 March 2009 00:00

The US Conference of Mayors "wish list" for the use of stimulus funds includes a request of \$99,600 for the installation of new doorbells at the Laurel, MS, Housing Authority. Available at <a href="http://www.usmayors.o">http://www.usmayors.o</a>